

South Carolina  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
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June 1, 2010

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## MEDICAID BULLETIN

**TO: Managed Care and Hospital Providers**

**SUBJECT: Newborns**

A baby born to a woman eligible for Medicaid is automatically eligible for Medicaid for one year of continuous coverage as long as the child remains a resident of South Carolina. This automatic eligibility is called Deemed Coverage. Currently, eligibility workers are instructed to deem a newborn's eligibility within 5 working days. The agency is experiencing problems when the baby is deemed eligible before receiving the child's name. In this case, the child is entered into the system as Baby Boy or Baby Girl. When the baby's birth is reported by two different sources, or when names or Social Security Numbers are reported, it is difficult to match the information with the child. This often results in duplicate and multiple Medicaid Identification Numbers being assigned to the child. The DHHS Form 1716 ME, Request for Medicaid ID Number of Newborn, is used by providers to report a birth to the eligibility worker, and must be fully completed including Name, Date of Birth, Race and Sex. In an effort to prevent the assignment of duplicate Medicaid Identification Numbers, providers are asked to include all information on the form, especially the baby's name. We ask for your cooperation in this matter.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact the Bureau of Eligibility Administration at (803) 898-2635. Thank you for your participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/S/  
Emma Forkner  
Director

**NOTE:** To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please send an email to [bulletin@scdhhs.gov](mailto:bulletin@scdhhs.gov) indicating your email address and contact information. To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to the following link for instructions: <http://www.scdhhs.gov/dhhsnew/serviceproviders/eft.asp>